

**HOMELESS YOUTH**  
Capacity Building Project

**Working With Your Local Housing  
Authority – FUP Vouchers and More**

**September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Presented by the  
John Burton Foundation**

Call-in phone number for live audio: 916-233-3088

Access code: 173-812-197

# Webinar Technical Details

- Call-in phone number for live audio: 916-233-3088
- Access code: 173-812-197
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel on your screen, type your question, and click “Send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at [www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)



# Homeless Youth Capacity Building Project

- Joint project of the John Burton Foundation and California Coalition for Youth
- Seeks to reduce homelessness among transition age youth, ages 16-24 in California by:
  - organizing homeless youth providers to advocate for better policies, and
  - expanding the organizational capacity of nonprofit providers serving homeless youth through technical assistance and training

# Outline of Presentation

- Overview of the Family Unification Program
- Real Life Examples
  - Using FUP Vouchers
  - HOME Program TBRA
  - Housing Authority Set Asides
- Q and A

# Today's Presenters

- Moderator: Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation
- Ruth Anne White, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
- Susan Paradise, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center
- Mary Jo Ramirez, California Family Life Center



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOUSING & CHILD WELFARE

**Ruth Anne White,**  
National Center for Housing  
and Child Welfare

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# The National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW)

- NCHCW links housing resources to child welfare agencies to improve family functioning, prevent family homelessness, safely reduce the need for out-of-home placement, and ensure that each young person who ages out foster care is able to access safe, decent, permanent housing.

# What can be done at the state level to address housing issues?

- Housing must be a central feature of your state's independent living curriculum.
- Ensure that your child welfare system organizes a continuum of housing resources.
- Build statewide partnerships to create a range of affordable housing opportunities.
- Tap new and unusual streams of funding.



# Partnerships with Public Housing Authorities

- Family Unification Program
- Priority Codes for Youth Leaving Care
- Housing Choice Vouchers
- Project Based Section 8



# Family Unification Program (FUP)

- FUP is a housing program for families and youth in the child welfare system. At minimum, FUP provides Section 8 vouchers to child welfare families and youth aging out of care.
- FUP is a collaboration between Public Housing Authorities and Public Child Welfare Agencies.
- FUP is a program designed to strengthen and stabilize child welfare families.



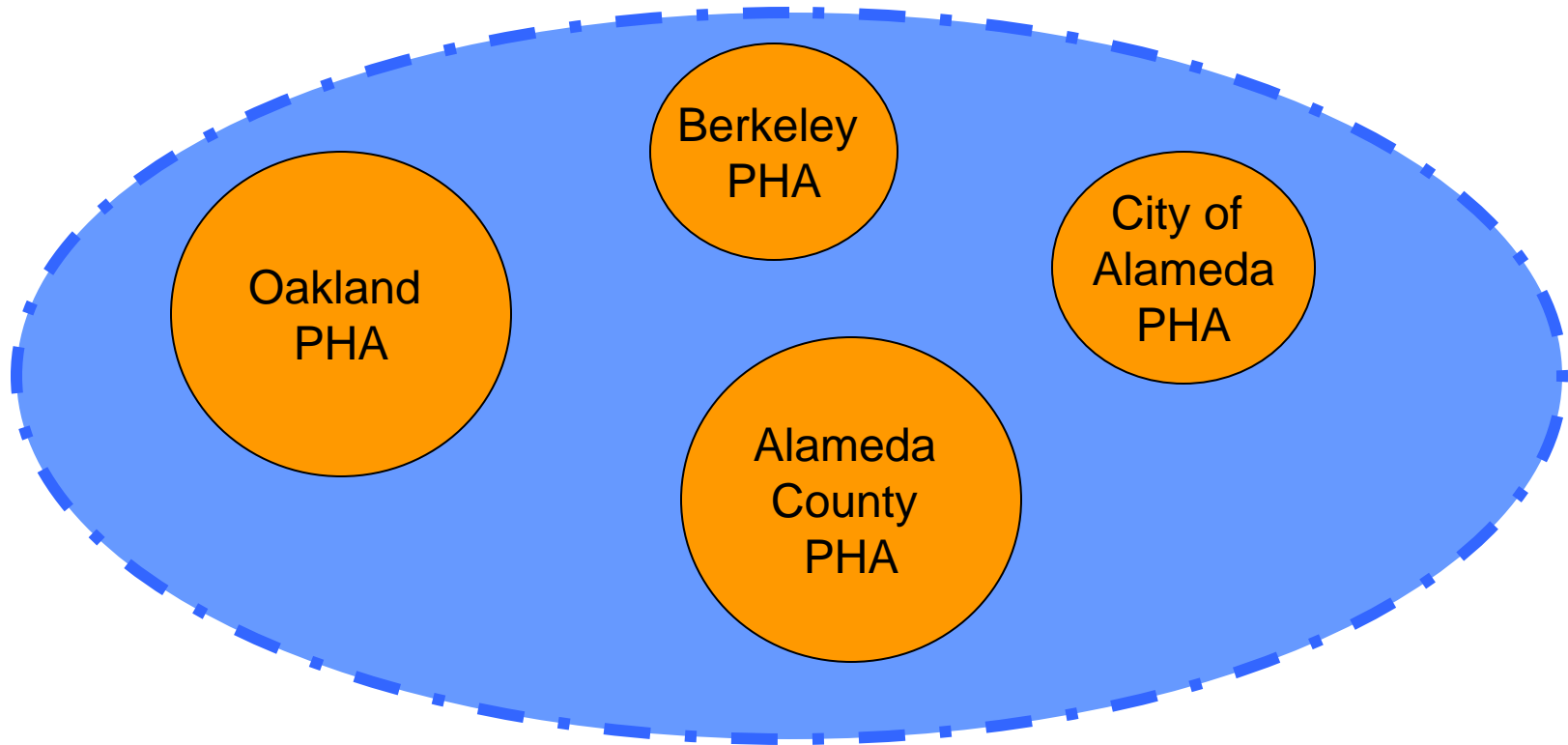
# FUP Application Basics

- Application made by Public Housing Authority (PHA)
- PHAs are not county-based but rather based on “entitled jurisdictions”
- Requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with public Child Welfare Agency (CWA)
- Requires provision of supportive services



# FUP: Based on PHAs, not Counties

*Possible Partnerships for Alameda Social Services Agency*



*For a list of PHAs in CA: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/ca.cfm>*

# Who is Eligible for FUP Vouchers?

## □ FUP-Eligible Youth

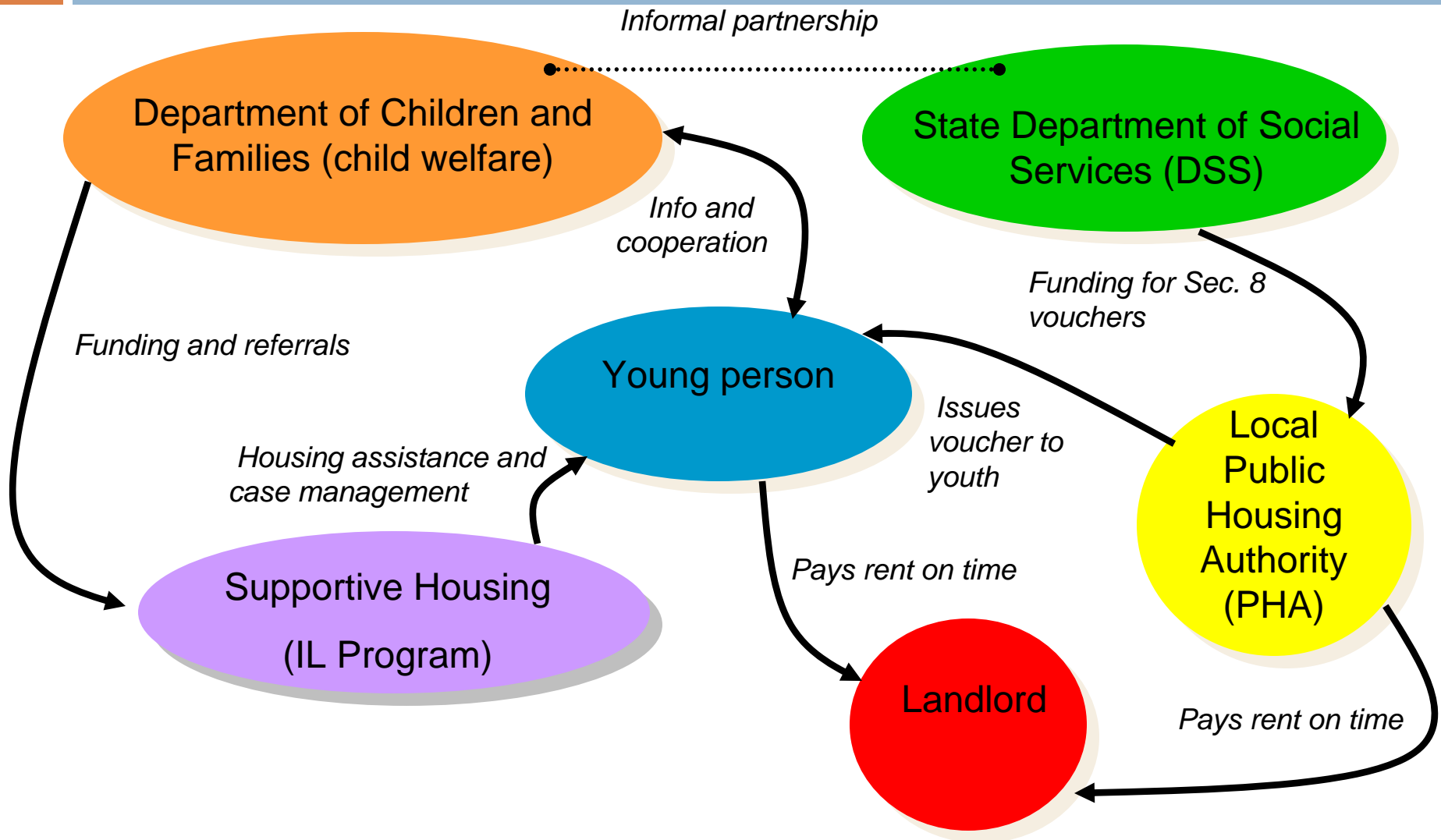
- A youth that the PCWA has certified to be at least 18 years old and not more than 21 who left **foster care at age 16 or older** and who **does not have adequate housing** and that the PHA determined is eligible

## □ FUP-Eligible Family

- Family that the PCWA has certified as a family for whom the **lack of adequate housing** is the primary factor in the imminent placement of the family's child, in the delay of discharge and that the PHA has determined is eligible.



# Agency Partnership

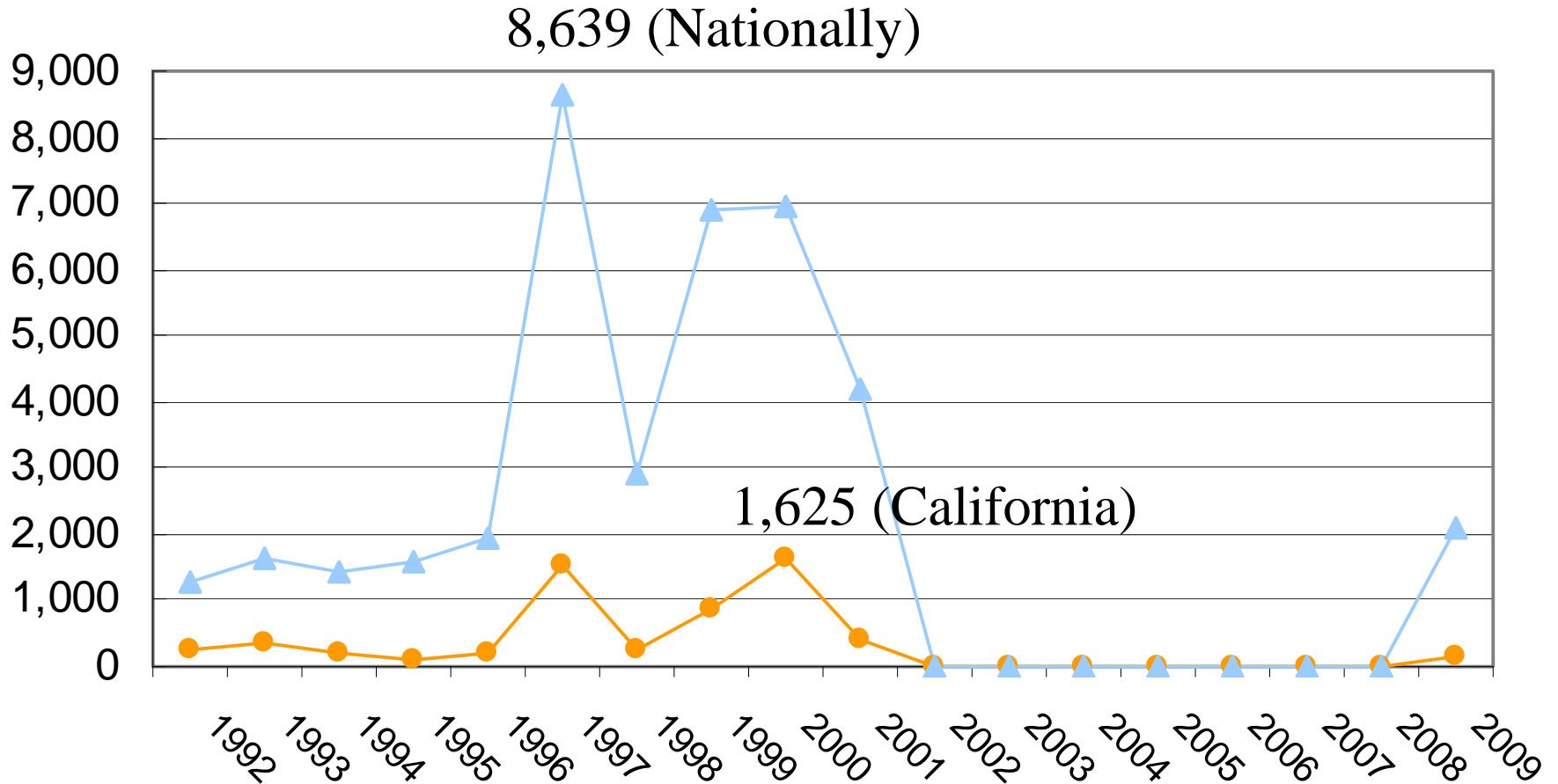


# What is the History of FUP?

- Established in 1992
- Over 41,000 vouchers have been issued since program inception
  - ▣ 6,764 vouchers have been issued to California
  - ▣ 39% of CA jurisdictions have gotten FUP vouchers
- Vouchers issued annually until 2001
  - ▣ No new vouchers until 2009



# FUP Vouchers Issued: 1992 to 2009



*A coalition of advocacy organizations has asked HUD to issue 5,000 annually*

# FUP Funding

- In 2008, Sens. Murray and Bond directed HUD to spend \$20 million on FUP, those funds will be distributed this summer.
- HUD currently ALSO has \$20 million from FY09 which will be distributed before the end of the year. \$15 million is included in the Senate FY2010 bill
- Many communities opt to create a FUP or expand one using regular vouchers



# FUP in California

Is your City or County on this list?

Alameda County	100
Alameda, City of	50
Anaheim HA	270
Contra Costa Cty	190
El Dorado County	50
Fresno City	300
Fresno County	359
Kern County	170
Los Angeles City	270
Los Angeles County	350
Madera	70
Mendocino	75
Merced County	320
Monterey County	125
Napa	100

Oakland	50
Oceanside	200
Orange County	215
Oxnard	50
Redding	40
Riverside County	350
Sacramento	125
Sacramento County	100
San Bernardino Cty	150
San Buenaventura	105
San Diego	250
San Diego County	270
San Joaquin County	111
San Jose	270

San Luis Obispo City	75
San Luis Obispo Cty	70
San Mateo County	90
Santa Ana	65
Santa Barbara	125
Santa Clara County	320
San Francisco	100
Santa Cruz County	123
Santa Monica	70
Santa Paula	15
Shasta County	45
Sonoma County	100
Stanislaus County	340
Tulare County	20
Ventura County	120

# Making the Case...

- For the Community: it is the preferred option and it's cheaper: a 2004 cost benefit analysis in Colorado showed that it costs \$53,655 to maintain one youth in the criminal justice system, but it only costs the state \$5,887 to provide housing and services.
- For PHAs: increased ability to serve clientele, more Section 8 vouchers.
- For PCWAs: expanded access to housing solutions for families, caseworkers.
- For youth: affordable housing, stability, exit from the child welfare system.



# Next Steps:

- Contact your public housing authority **TODAY**
  - **Determine** if they are planning to apply
  - **Ask** about status of previously issued FUP vouchers
  - **Ask** how many youth FUP vouchers they have, and how they are being distributed
  - **Inquire** about how the required supportive services are being provided
  - **Invite** the PHA representative to participate in your standing collaborations



# Next Steps:

- Contact your county child welfare agency
  - **Educate** them about this opportunity
  - **Encourage** them to contact PHA
  - **Discuss** how FUP fits into your county's strategy to addresses homelessness among FFY
- Access technical assistance
  - **Review** available materials: [www.nchcw.org](http://www.nchcw.org)
  - **Use** the sample MOU
  - **Access** individual TA



# Some final thoughts on where to start

- Pay a visit to the states that have made strides, learn from their mistakes and achievements.
- States can use some homeless services and housing dollars for youth, but again, there are restrictions.
- Collaborations are the fastest, most efficient way to create a range of housing options.
- You can always contact the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare with questions or for training!



# Contact information

□ Ruth White, MSSA

Executive Director

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[www.nchcw.org](http://www.nchcw.org)



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**Susan Paradise, Santa  
Cruz Community  
Counseling Center**

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# Organizational Overview

Programs include:

- Early Childhood and Youth Services
- Emergency Shelter
- Supportive Housing Program
- Substance Abuse Recovery Services
- TAY Services
  - Independent Living Program & Independent Living Resource Center
  - THP+
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing



# Santa Cruz FUP Program History

- Santa Cruz Housing Authority had existing allocation of FUP vouchers
- 2003: Decision to carve out FUP vouchers for TAY
- Joint effort of SCCCC, Santa Cruz County Housing Authority and Human Services Dept.
- Emerged from recognition of need for housing for TAY by all 3 agencies

# Program Overview

- 8 vouchers total with 18 month limit
- When vouchers expire re-utilized with new youth
- Referrals all come from SCCCC
- Participants must be connected to the ILP
- Funding for services from ILP and County Mental Health funding



# Program Overview

- SCCCC Provides
  - Referrals for vouchers
  - Assistance with application process
  - Housing search assistance and identification of units
  - Support to landlords
  - Ongoing support services and case management to youth
  - Assistance with transition to other stable housing upon expiration of voucher

# Lessons Learned

- ☑ Importance of maintaining relationships with landlords and challenges identifying units.
- ☑ Ensuring that correspondence from Housing Authority comes to SCCCC
- ☑ Voluntary nature of services requires new engagement strategies

# Keys to Success



- Developing good relationships with Housing Authority, County Child Welfare Dept., Economic Development Dept., etc.
- Looking for and jumping on opportunities that present themselves
- Ongoing monthly community with Housing Authority and having single point of contact

**Other Examples of Collaboration  
with Housing Authorities:**

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance &  
Section 8 Set-asides**

# Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program Overview

- HOME funds are allocated by HUD to Cities, Counties and the State (known as “participating jurisdictions”).
- Any participating jurisdiction can allocate a portion of funds towards TBRA however very few currently use these funds for this purpose.
- TBRA functions like Tenant Based Section 8 vouchers and are allocated for 24-month contracts (with the option to reapply).
- Determine which jurisdictions in your area receive HOME funds and pursue options for using funds for TBRA for TAY.

# Santa Cruz TBRA Program

- Santa Cruz County will be applying to State for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) targeted to TAY through the federal HOME program
- Collaboration between
  - Santa Cruz County (eligible applicant)
  - Santa Cruz Housing Authority (program administrator) and
  - SCCCC (service provider)



**Mary Jo Ramirez,  
California Family  
Life Center**

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# California Family Life Center

- Serves youth from Riverside County
- Licensed Foster Family Agency and KinCare
- Five group homes
- Youth Opportunity Centers – job training



# Living Independently and Fostering Excellence (My L.I.F.E.)

- CFLC recognized need to provide assistance to youth transitioning out of foster care
- Received initial grants from the McCormick Foundation and Fieldstone Foundation
- Provided funds for move-in costs, security deposits, furniture, utility deposits, etc.

# Housing Authority Collaboration

- County's Council for Youth Development, in which CFLC participates, recognized need for more housing opportunities for TAY
- Collaboration with the local Housing Authority created to address need
- Ten Section 8 vouchers were designated for youth exiting foster care in coordination with the My L.I.F.E. program

# CFLC Role

Through the My L.I.F.E. Program, CFLC provides:

Assistance with completing Section 8 paperwork

Identification of units and apartment search assistance

Funds for furniture and other incidentals

Ongoing case management following move-in

Assistance with annual Section 8 renewals

# Program Components

- Referrals come from CFLC, Dept. of Social Services, ILP and Youth Opportunity Centers
- Funding for staffing primarily from Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding and private donations
- Vouchers are meant to last for 2 years, however can be extended in some circumstances
- High intensity services initially which lessen over time

# Keys to Success



- Relationship building and creating strong partnerships with Housing Authority
- Providing a high level of service at onset
- Knowing how to step down services over time to move participants towards independence

# Keys to Success (cont.)

- Close monitoring of participants to ensure ongoing integrity of program
- Staff availability evenings and weekends
- Presence of CFLC staff reassures landlords and creates openness to renting to participants

# Upcoming Trainings



## Regional Training

- **Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 – 4:00:** Better Supervision: A Smart Response to Tough Economic Times  
The California Endowment, Oakland

## Web Seminar

- **Tuesday, October 26, 10:00 – 11:30:** Improving Outcomes by using Harm Reduction in TAY Housing

**Don't Forget to Fill Out Our Survey!!!**

# **HOMELESS YOUTH** Capacity Building Project

## **Questions or comments?**

**Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Questions” panel, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”**

**Or direct later questions or comments to:**

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**[www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)**